

Members Information Summary

Some brief advice for members & potential members

Thank you for volunteering to be a member of Herefordshire 4x4 Response Team. You will be asked to undertake a few basic assessments of your map reading / navigation capabilities and to check the capability of you and your vehicle, on surfaced and un-surfaced roads. Your vehicle must also be maintained to MOT standards. Once you have completed these assessments you may be called on at any time to assist with any incidents to which Herefordshire 4x4 Response Team has been called by recognised Emergency Services or other voluntary agencies. These may occasionally be in counties adjacent to Herefordshire. We will not normally act as a first response agency.

Throughout the year, we will ask you to take part in ongoing training, which is mainly on a peer-to-peer basis, or exercises. As you maybe called out at anytime you are asked to ensure that you ALWAYS have enough fuel to complete a round trip of at least 100 miles --- remember we operate in a fairly large county and it is not always easy to find a garage. It is also strongly recommended that you take the time to make a flask of hot drink and prepare a sandwich or similar as you may be away from home for some time.

Always remember that you are a VOLUNTEER and if you feel that either you or your vehicle is not capable of carrying out the task required please feel free to say so at any time. Different vehicles & drivers have different capabilities, it is much better NOT to attempt something that you know is beyond you or your vehicle than to attempt it & then require extraction by others. At all times when you are on duty with Herefordshire 4x4 Response Team, we ask that you act in a professional manner and do nothing to bring the organisation into disrepute.

If you have a CB radio please use Channel 12 (UK) for communications between vehicles, those members with amateur radio licences are asked to tune to any channels that may be allocated on the day. We are hoping to form a close relationship with RAYNET, so it is possible that you may find yourselves talking to RAYNET operating on behalf of the calling agency.

You will be expected to take instructions from the duty controller or controlling agency (i.e. Police Fire Ambulance etc.) depending upon the size of the incident. Please note that even when assisting the Emergency Services you do not have the same rights so you should always drive within the speed limit & prevailing road conditions. The Herefordshire 4x4 Response Team high visibility waistcoat or jacket should be worn for your safety and identification purposes. When on Herefordshire 4x4 Response Team duties please ensure

that you & your vehicle are identifiable, uniforms and vehicle logos are available from the committee, and that you make yourselves known to the agency calling us, i.e. Ambulance, County Emergency planning, WRVS etc. as soon as possible after arriving at the scene.

The normal MINIMUM call out will be two vehicles and their drivers. Larger incidents may result in more vehicles being called out and if necessary the DUTY CONTROLLER will attend in person or assign that role to a unit on site. Usually this will be the local 'point of contact' (Team leader). The first units called to an incident will normally be the 2 GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSEST vehicles capable of carrying out the requested task. When assigned to a task you will normally be asked for an ETA, on arrival at the scene of an incident you MUST advise the DUTY CONTROLLER that you are on the scene, and should keep him/her fully informed of events. If at any time you think that further assistance may be required please notify the controller as soon as possible. Remember, you cannot have TOO MANY units but you can have too few, called to an incident/event.

The decision as to how many units will be deployed rests with the controller but he/she is expected to take advice from units on the scene.

When leaving the scene please advise the Control of your ETA back to your 'home address' and whether the incident may be considered closed. As a final closure please confirm that you have arrived safely 'home'.

Finally and most importantly !

The safety of yourselves & your colleagues is paramount.

NEVER

DO ANY ACTION

WHICH WILL

ENDANGER YOURSELF

OR OTHERS.